

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 12 to 14 were objected to because of informalities, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection. Claims 20 and 22 to 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Behnke et al. (US 5,863,367). Claims 1, 2, 4 to 11, 21 and 24 were allowed.

Claim 12 has been amended to clarify the term “carrier sleeve layer.” Claims 13 and 14 depend on claim 12 and consequently incorporate the limitations of claim 12 by reference. Applicant submits that claims 13 and 14 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from claim 12 which is believed to be patentable for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 20 and 22 to 23 are cancelled without prejudice.

#### **Claim Objections**

Claims 12 to 14 were objected to because of informalities, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection. Claim 12 has been amended to clarify the term “carrier sleeve layer.” Withdrawal of the objections to claims 12 to 14 is respectfully requested.

#### **35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections**

Claims 20 and 22 to 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Behnke et al. (US 5,863,367).

Applicants cancel claims 20 and 22 to 23 without prejudice.

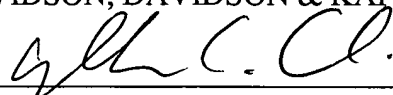
#### **Withdrawn Claims**

Claims 3 and 17 were withdrawn. Claim 17 has been canceled. With respect to claim 3, it is respectfully submitted that Fig. 3A, for example, shows a printing blanket with “a carrier sleeve layer having at least one axially convex surface, the carrier sleeve layer being rigid to maintain a tubular shape for the printing blanket” and also having a uniform thickness. Claim 3 thus is a proper dependent claim and refers to a sub-species of generic claim 1 and reinstatement is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,  
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By:   
William C. Gehris  
Reg. No. 38,156

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC  
485 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York 10018  
(212) 736-1940